
afte Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression
The Status of Foreign Journalists and Correspondents in Egypt
2011-2014
1:3.5-4.5
ON
LENS
Φ58mm



Report on the Status of Foreign Journalists and Correspondents in Egypt

2011-2014

The Status of Foreign Journalists and Correspondents in Egypt

2011-2014



Authored by the researchers of the Freedom of the Media Program

Mostafa Shaat

Sarah El Masry

Contributed to subscribing interviews

Nihad Yusuf

Editor

Mostafa Shawky



4, Ahmed Basha St, 6th Floor,
Garden City, Cairo, Egypt
info@afteegypt.org
www.afteegypt.org
+201275206325

Table of contents

Preface

In his testimony to the researchers of the AFTE concerning the status of foreign press in Egypt, post 25 January Revolution, the British journalist, **Max Rodenbeck**, the Bureau Chief of *The Economist* Middle East and Egypt's office spoke about the crisis of foreign media saying: "Should Egypt desire to improve its image worldwide, it must start improving the status of those reflecting this image abroad, not antagonize them."

This report attempts to delineate a comprehensive picture of the status of foreign journalists and correspondents in Egypt, by trying to understand security, administrative, and social challenges they face, to the detriment of their journalistic work. This is done through examining the extent of the impact of socio-political changes and unrest experienced by Egypt as of 25 January 2011 up to the present on the work environment of foreign correspondents.

Furthermore, the report monitors challenges and obstacles faced by foreign correspondents through news material collected on the Internet, and interviews held by the AFTE researchers with some foreign journalists and correspondents who had and have experienced reporting during turbulent political times, as correspondents to different foreign media and papers. The report also polled the opinions of some specialists and groups interested in the topic and the position of press and medial professionals.

The report primarily aims at archiving and documenting all the abuses, identified by the research team, committed against foreign journalists and media professionals working in Egypt and their rights. Among such rights is the right to have a safe work environment and the right to access information. Moreover, the report seeks to examine the causes behind growing hostility against foreigners in Egypt, which has become widespread since the 25th January Revolution. The purpose is to present to decision makers practical proposals and solutions to improve the situation of this group of media professionals.

Statistics used in the report indicate 184 abuses against journalists during the period 2011-2014: 64 cases of physical attack culminating in injuries (at varying degrees of seriousness); 68 cases of detention and arrest of foreign correspondents and journalists; 4 cases of sexual assault and one case of rape; 17 cases of confiscation and destruction of equipment and personal belongings; and finally 6 cases of denying access to photographing/ filming.[1]

The report is divided into three main sections: the first presents and examines security issues experienced by foreign journalists while on duty, through reviewing the largest number possible of cases of physical assault, arrest and detention, and confiscation of equipment. This information is gathered by combining testimonials given by reporters interviewed by the researchers with the reports of abuses published on the Internet.

The second section of the report focuses on administrative difficulties and barriers facing foreign reporters, such as work permits, as well as the challenging task facing them in gathering information. This section focuses as well on recounting and explaining the role of foreign media in introducing the Egyptian public to a set of issues of public interest.

1. The details of such incidents can be read in the appendix on the abuses attached at the end of the study.

The report concludes with a set of recommendations to the Egyptian government, reminding of its duty to protect journalists, their right to access information, and to create a healthy and safe environment conducive to the profession. However, the Egyptian government also needs to explore practical and key solutions to the issue of foreign journalism and media in Egypt.

Cases of assault on foreign journalists and correspondents
from 25th of January 2011 to October 2014

- 68 Temporary detention
- 64 Physical assaults and injuries
- 2 Break in
- 3 Sexual assaults
- 1 Sexual harassment
- 1 Rape
- 6 Imprisonment
- Killings 2
- Confiscation of equipment 10
- Breaking and stealing equipment 15
- Prevention 6
- Arrest 3
- Kidnapping 2
- Threat 1

184 Violations

2014 5
Aljazeera journalists were sentenced to prison for 7 and 10 years

2013 61
One of the worst periods when xenophobia increased

2012 5
Most of the violations were of sexual nature

2011 112
Security forces and pro-Mubarak protestors carried out most of the violations against foreign journalists

Methodology

The report relies primarily on the methodology of gathering, monitoring, and analyzing the news material related to the discussion of abuses experienced by foreign journalists and correspondents in Egypt, as well as the challenges they face doing their job. The report studies the data, analyzes abuses published on the AFTE's Freedom of Expression Index in Egypt[2], press releases, published news, documented testimonies of victims, rights-based reports and statements, and academic studies addressing in depth the working environment for foreign reporters and correspondents.[3]

The report also relies on holding interviews with journalists subjected to such abuses, in order to highlight the status of foreign journalists in Egypt and the impact these abuses had on their coverage of events.

It is noteworthy that upon selecting foreign correspondents to be interviewed, the team tried - as much as possible - to take stock of representation in terms of nationality and specialization. The only condition was the residency of the interviewee in Egypt as of 2011 and until the date of issuing the report.

Notably, as well, the numbers of foreign correspondents and journalists in Egypt is declining, due to the turbulent political situation and the fears stirred by the prison sentences against al-Jazeera reporters, dubbed **"the Marriott Cell"** by the media. This trend was further confirmed by the reporters and correspondents selected for the sample, which made the job of the research team even more difficult in terms of finding foreign correspondents and reporters working in Egypt, especially if they have been victims to abuses during the timeframe of the report.

2. The AFTE Freedom of Expression Index monitors abuses experienced by those working in the media and the press in Egypt, both Egyptian and foreign. For the Index link check: http://fexi.afteegypt.org/

3. It is important to emphasize that the abuses monitored in the report are by no means an exhaustive list, but rather those that the AFTE researchers were able to identify from the aforementioned sources.

Part I: The status of foreign media during various political periods

1. Events of the 25th of January Revolution

The first spark of the events in Egypt started in January 2011, with the call for protests with various demands ranging from structural reforms of the Ministry of Interior (with the dismissal of the Minister as a top priority) and up to the overthrow of the regime itself. As a result, hundreds of thousands of Egyptians started an 18-day sit-in in Tahrir Square, which coincided with several clashes and acts of violence and ultimately leading to the stepping down of the former President Mubarak from power, and delegating this power to the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF).

The 18-day Tahrir Square sit-in during the month of January has been accompanied with a hostile rhetoric in state-owned media against foreigners in general. This was an attempt at creating an image of the events of the time as if they were a "foreign conspiracy". This was clearly reflected through statements and telephone interventions made on state-owned TV channels, claiming foreign funding of the protestors in Tahrir. Other claims included the arrest of some foreigners under charges of distributing and disseminating posters opposing the views of the regime at the time - all of which were fallacies, as proven later.[4]

The fact that state media pursued this aggressive discourse reflected negatively on the environment in which foreign correspondents operated. More than one foreign reporter was arrested on various counts. At times they have even been assaulted verbally and physically. Moreover, assaults were not selective, they even included those leveled against the correspondents of the major papers and international stations; let alone the attacks against the correspondents of some of the papers and media relatively unknown to the Egyptian public, such as those on the Catalan, Polish, and Danish TV correspondents and those on the press correspondents of Swedish, and South African papers.

As observed, most of the abuses were undertaken by persons affiliated to different security agencies. Many journalists were also continuously harassed by supporters of Mubarak, as well as by the ordinary people who formed a sort of vigilante groups upon the withdrawal of the police forces post the events of **"Friday of Anger"** on 28th of January 2011, who were greatly influenced by the way with which foreign media covered the events in Egypt at the time, as confirmed by the reporter **Nadine Marroushi,** of English *The **Daily Telegraph***, in her testimony to the authors of the report.[5]

4. Link for the phone call of Mr. **Hani Beibers** on Nile News reporting the presence of foreign protesters in Tahrir Square, January 2011. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2FqUi4sJc4

5. Testimony by the reporter, **Nadine Marroushi** to AFTE, Cairo, September 2014.

Along the same line, **Rob Mahoney,** the deputy director of the **Committee to Protect Journalists** (CPJ) headquartered in New York, USA[6] stated, “The move is a signal that the regime doesn’t want the world to see what it will do next... The administration has its back up against the wall and elements within the administration are reacting by trying to silence coverage of the unrest.”[7]

Max Rodenbeck, the Middle East Bureau Chief of the British ***Economist*** added through his testimony to the research team [8] that “the status of foreign journalists and correspondents severely deteriorated during the 25th of January Revolution, to the extent that culminated to assaulting some foreigners on the mere grounds of suspecting that they had been journalists.”

Statistics relied on for this research indicate 112 attacks against journalists in 2011 alone, 44 of which were physical (with varying degrees of severity), 34 were cases of arrest and detention for foreign correspondents and journalists, 2 sexual assaults, 11 cases of confiscating equipment and personal belongings, and 5 cases of prohibition to photograph. All such cases were mainly during the 18 days.[9]

The trend of attacking foreign journalists and correspondents started with the inception of protests on 25h of January 2011, when **Wally Neil**, a correspondent for the South Africa-based **Zuma Press** news agency, was shot with rubber bullets by the police while photographing the protests on top of the 6 October Bridge. In his testimony about the incident and recorded on the website of “**Democracy Now**”, **Neil** stated: “[he]took aim again and then shot me in the head and the back as we ran away. ... And we were very deliberately targeted.”[10]

With the growing tensions between the supporters of Mubarak regime and the protestors in Tahrir Square, in what was dubbed later as “the Battle of the Camels”, assaults against foreign correspondents heightened in an unprecedented manner. The assaults ran the gamut of incidental physical attacks, detention for hours by security forces, confiscation of photographing equipment and personal belongings, to one reported case of rape of an American journalist.

Physical assaults against foreign correspondents started on the 2nd and 3rd of February **Jean-François Lépine**, the correspondent of Radio Canada, and on the cameraman working for the same network, **Sylvain Castonguay**, were roughed by the supporters of the former regime close to the Cairo Airport on the 2nd of February 2011. The CBC news report, as well as the statement of the network, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CFJE) maintained that some supporters of the ruling regime (at the time), attacked **Castonguay**, only stopping upon the intervention of some security forces.[11]

---

6. The Committee to Protect Journalists is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide, as indicated on the website thereof: http://www.cpj.org/about/

7. Statement by Rob Mahoney to the news site Canada.com of Toronto, Canada on 3 February 2011.http://goo.gl/W4xulz

8. Testimony by, Max Rodenbeck to AFTE, Cairo, September 2014.

9. The details of such incidents can be read in the appendix on the abuses attached at the end of the study.

10. Check the link of the testimony of Wally Neil on the incident of his injury with pellet bullets by Egyptian security forces on the website, Democracy Now, New York, 7 February 2011. http://goo.gl/wsy8w

11. Report of CFJE, 3 February 2011, Toronto, Canada: http://cjfe.org/resources/features/attacks-press-freedom-egypt.

On the very same day, the renowned **CNN** correspondent, **Anderson Cooper**, was assaulted by pro-Mubarak supporters in the vicinity of Tahrir Square. The footage of the assault reflected the beating and kicking leveled against Cooper and his team, together with attempts at destroying their equipment, while they have been evacuated from the Square.[12]

David Common, the Canadian **CBC** reporter, stated in one of the interviews with the editors of CBC news on the Internet, held on 3rd February 2011, “One of the reasons that I am speaking to you by Skype is that it’s simply not safe for us to go out above this square. People are pointing us out and this comes on a day when it appears foreign journalists are being targeted.”[13]

Common’s fears were even confirmed by the tweets sent by **Al-Jazeera’s Anna-Lisa Fuglesang** on 3rd February when she stated: “So I’m in what people are calling a war zone, journos with bandages on their heads. Today we can’t leave our hotel. All the journos sitting in the hotel lobby have been moved away from the entrance. Rocks are being thrown close to the front door.”[14]

With the consecutive attacks on journalists and correspondents, the government - at the time - was showered with massive international reprehension for failing to deal with the assaults. The former White House spokesman, firmly censured reports of systematic attacks on journalists in Egypt, indicating that they were completely unacceptable. Furthermore, the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Lawrence Cannon**, reiterated that his government was following with great apprehension the conditions of Canadian journalists in Egypt. He added that he was contemplating meeting the Egyptian ambassador to Canada, in Ottawa, to protest such repeated attacks.[15]

However, the complaints voiced did not have a great impact on the conditions of foreign correspondents. Assaults against journalists and correspondents even amounted to threatening by civilians of the ABC network team with being beheaded. Among those was the correspondent **Brian Hartman**. This was due to their passage in an open car carrying cameras and other equipment. The team was only saved by the pleading of the Lebanese ex-cameraman, **Akram Abi-hanna**, and one of the team members arrested at the time.[16]

The Fox News correspondent **Greg Palcot** and cameraman **Olaf Wiig** were attacked by some pro-Mubarak supporters when the building used for the coverage of events was besieged, which forced them to flee through backstreets, where they were severely beaten to the point they had to be hospitalized.[17]

In their testimony of the incident to **Fox News**, **Palcot** stated that he was unable to run from the crowds chasing him and his colleague **Olaf**, and then people pummeled them with fists,

12. For a link of the CNN footage on the assault against the correspondent, Anderson Cooper in Tahrir Square, on 2 February 2011, check the following: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjLVNzxU5_4

13. Interview by CBC with David Common, on 3 February 2011, Cairo: http://goo.gl/uc9l8v

14. Some of Anna-Lisa Fuglesang›s tweets are published on Reuters› website, Exter, England on 3 February 2011: http://goo.gl/apvBj1

15. Source: Link to the press conference held by the White House Spokesperson on 3 February 2011, on the website of the White House, Washington: http://goo.gl/3llFA0

16. Details of the assault on the ABC network team on 3 February 2011: http://goo.gl/lTkzrr

17. For more details of the assault on the Fox News team, see:http://goo.gl/iCqaYT

sticks and stones, to the extent that they had almost lost consciousness. **Wiig** recalled in the Fox interview that at one point he could “At sone point, I thought I could talk some reason into somebody, but this was impossible... Those people sought to kill us and the more they hit us, the more we realized, actually, they were probably serious about killing us.”

Wiig described his injury as such, “I’ve got two really good-sized lacerations on the back of my head, and a stab wound in the back of my leg. There is also a big bruise on the left temple.” He added , “My back just looks like a piece of modern art, just completely black and blue.”He described his state saying “I was absolutely not ready to die that day, you know. I’ve got a beautiful wife and loving family, and I just want to get back.” The suffering of the two journalists did not stop at that. After having miraculously made it to an armored vehicle, the army officer demanded to escort them to the police station and to photograph them, prior to a decision of their release.

Similarly, though not as brutally, the famous British **CNN** correspondent **Christiane Amanpour** was also subject to assault when she was asking some of the pro-Mubarak supporters near Tahrir Square about their opinion concerning the clashes at the time. This group of protestors surrounded her and demanded that she leaves immediately, shouting aggressive remarks along the lines “we hate America and the Americans, we don’t want you here.”[18] The videoed report showed later the same protestors kicking the car taking **Amanpour** and breaking parts of its windshield screen.

It could be said that the worst cases of assaults on foreign correspondents during the 25th of January 2011 events was that on the CBS correspondent at the height of celebration by protestors in Tahrir Square of the decision taken by the ex-president to step down.[19]

On her way to Tahrir Square to take shots of the celebration of the protestors, **Lara Logan** was taken by surprise with a mob of protestors surrounding her and her filming crew. The attackers managed to take her away from the crew and tore her clothes, on a 40-minute assault - only coming to an end when a group of women came to her aid, supported with army officers.

In her testimony to the incident, **Logan** said that with the excessive assault she “was convinced that she was going to die” as she was unable to stop any attack. “For an extended period of time, they raped me with their hands...What really struck me was how merciless they were.”

Logan added towards the end of her testimony, “The very nature of what we do - communicating information - is whats undoing these regimes. It makes us the enemy, whether we like it or not.”

In the same context, many journalists were illegally arrested and detained, such as the Egyptian-American **Ayman Mohy-eldin**, the correspondent to **Al-Jazeera International**, on the 7th of February 2011, upon attempting to enter Tahrir Square to cover the events of the protests. He was stopped by an army officer and led to a location close to the museum and detained for a

18. Video report to ABC news on the assault against Christiane Amanpour, close to Tahrir Square, on 3 February 2011, NY, USA: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtIZlie9Yxc

19. The details of the attack on the Daily Mail correspondent, Lara Logan, on 29 April 2011, London, UK: http://goo.gl/SuaHCT

while. The army officer confiscated all **Mohy-eldin**'s personal belongings and blindfolded him for full five hours.[20]

Despite, confirming that no physical harm befell him, **Mohy-eldin** stated that some of the officers started asking him about his opinion concerning the protests and the measures taken by the army in dealing with them; and he was also asked about the reasons for being in Egypt. The officers also asked him about his reasons for not returning to his mother country, the US, and for the reasons of covering the events in a negative light.[21]

The Brazilian journalist and correspondent of **Brazilian Radio Nacional**, **Corban Costa**, was also arrested and blindfolded by the Egyptian security forces; his belongings (including his passport) were confiscated, and he was detained for a full night in cell without water, as indicated on the widely-read website "**Business Insider**."[22]

The two female journalists **Liela Fadel** and **Linda Davidson**, the correspondents of the US paper the ***Washington Post***, were arrested by one of the military units posted near Tahrir Square for a while, only to be released on the 3rd of February. Moreover, the journalist **Sonia Verma** and her colleague, **Patrick Martin**, the correspondents of the Canadian paper, **The Globe and the Mail**, were arrested by a military unit officer near Tahrir Square on the same day.[23]

In her testimony published on her paper website, **Verma** stated "Eight men surrounded our car. They were dressed in plain clothes. They searched the car and passengers, and requested to check the passports."[24] She was taken with her colleague to a detention facility, 20 Km away from Tahrir Square, close to one of the churches. A group of army officers detained her with another group of other foreign correspondents and one police officer collected their passports and personal belongings without giving any justification for detention.

Verma added in her testimony that neither she nor her colleague, **Patrick**, were physically assaulted. However, she was told later that collecting their personal belongings was for their interest, without being told any more details. Three hours later into detention, the army officer restored the passports to the detainees and informed them that they could leave.

As indicated before, the AFTE's researchers observed 15 cases of theft and confiscation of the cameras and other equipment of foreign correspondents, over the 18 day sit-in in Tahrir Square over the two months of January and February 2011. Furthermore, **Jon Williams**, the **BBC** correspondent had his equipment confiscated from him from his hotel room (Ramsis Hilton) by security forces, to prevent him from filming the events on Tahrir Square, as indicated on a tweet sent by Williams on the 3rd of February.[25]

---

20. In his recorded testimony to al-Jazeera International, Ayman stated that he realized that many other foreign correspondents were sitting next to him. For details check the link, 7 February 2011, Doha, Qatar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBNLYet_NEQ

21. More details of the detention of the correspondent, Mohy-eldin, could be seen on NPR network website, on 7 February 2011, Washington DC:http://goo.gl/r1J5Ae

22. Details of the arrest of the Brazilian journalists, Corban Costa, on Buisness Insider, NY, USA, on 3 February 2011. http://goo.gl/NHzrH9

23. The testimony of the journalist Sonia Verma on the incident of her arrest on the The Globe and Mail, on 3 February 2011, Toronto, Canada:http://goo.gl/oxtDfY

24. The link of arresting the correspondents of the Washington Post could be accessed on the paper blog, on 3 February, Washington DC, USA: http://goo.gl/4u9vYa

25. For the link of the tweet, 3 February 2011, see: https://twitter.com/WilliamsJon/status/33191892174770176

The Turkish correspondent, **Metin Turan**, of the **Turkish TV** network in Cairo, was subjected to a similar incident, when surrounded by pro-Mubarak supporters who beat him with sticks, and stole his camera and wallet, in the Tahrir Square area. A similar attack was experienced by the Polish TV crew when they were detained. [26]

A freelance US journalist, who spoke on condition of anonymity, stated in her testimony to the writers of the report that "one of the army officers tried to confiscate her camera and the memory card, but she refused." This was the same experience of **Christiane Arsco** the correspondent of the Romanian TV network, "**Realitatea TV**", when he was arrested by some of the police officers who confiscated his camera and all of the footage he had prior to his release.[27]

26. For details on the attack on Metin Turan can be read on the website «Business Insider,» on 3 February 2014: http://goo.gl/NHzrH9
27. Testimony by the American reporter, to AFTE, Cairo, September 2014.

Violations from January 25th 2011 to February 11th 2011



104 Violations

2. The first transitional period until the accession of the former President Morsi to power

Socio-political tensions escalated during the first period of transition, lasting as of the stepping down of the former president Mubarak, on the 11th of February until the handing of power to the president, Mohammad Morsi on the 30th of June 2012. Such unrest was rather caused by the dissatisfaction across wide segments, political parties, and social movements with the SCAF policies - the ruler of the country at the time.

Undoubtedly, this socio-political turmoil reflected on the status of foreign journalists and correspondents in Egypt. It is noteworthy that this targeting of foreign correspondents and journalists declined significantly at the time of SCAF - which does not necessarily mean that their condition was particularly better or that they were truly appreciated by those in power as one of the channels to the dissemination of information. Nonetheless, the spirit of antagonism towards foreigners had ceased steadily, as most of the journalists interviewed by AFTE stated.

AFTE researchers were able to identify 9 documented assaults during the first period of transition, mainly among the journalists who were covering the Mohammad Mahmoud clashes in November 2011, and those of al-Qasr el-Eini on December of the same year.

Assaults started on the 22th of November when a group of civilians beat the *Wall Street Journal* journalist, **Guillem Valle**, who had to be hospitalized as a result.[28] On the same day, the freelance photographer, Dana Smiley, was detained in one of the military buildings, for a 5-hour interrogation prior to her release.

One day later, the Egyptian-American, **Mona el-Tahawy**, the correspondent for both the Canadian paper, **Toronto Star**, and the Danish paper, ***Politiken***, was physically and sexually assaulted by Central Security soldiers, after having been arrested on Mohammad Mahmoud street on the evening of 23rd of November.[29] El-Tahawy stated in her testimony that she has been detained for 3 hours and interrogated by officers from Military Intelligence, while blindfolded. At the same time, Tahawy confirmed that she was surrounded by 5-6 individuals taking turn sexually assaulting her.

Tahawy added that she had to respond to the questions of the officer initially, because she did not have her passport on her. She refused then to cooperate. The incident ended up with the apology of the officer for the abuses by the Central Security soldiers. She was requested to record her testimony, before she realized that the assault caused the fracture of her two arms.

28. Reporters Without Borders, 24 November 2011, Paris: http://goo.gl/DErCjU
29. For more details on the assault on Tahawy, check Al-Ahram Online on 24 November 2011: http://english.ahram.org.eg/News/27523.aspx

The French reporter, **Caroline Sinz** of **France 3 TV** channel, was similarly brutally physically and sexually assulted, during her coverage of the clashes in the vicinity of the Ministry of Interior in November 2011.

During her coverage together with the cameraman, the journalist was assaulted by a group of young men, 15 years old at most. She was taken away from her colleague and beaten, her clothes were torn and she was harassed to a point nearing "rape."[30]

In her testimony to AFP, Sinz stated that some protestors tried to help to no avail. The assault continued for 45 minutes, until she felt that she was going to die. Sinz managed to flee the attackers and was finally taken to her hotel, where she managed to get adequate medical attention. In a similar attack, the **Al-Jazeera** correspondent, **Evan Hill**, was beaten and detained for hours, upon his coverage of Qasr el-Eini clashes on the 16th of December 2011.

It is noteworthy that the Australian journalist, **Austin Michael**, was arrested during coverage of the reactions of citizens post the call for civil disobedience in the city of Mahallah, Gharbiyyah governorate. Some of the civilians submitted him to the police, who in turn handed him to Military Intelligence forces for interrogation on charges of agency, the attempt to destory public property, and inciting the workers in the factory to join the disobedience.[31]

Omar Kamel, one of the members of "No to Military Trials" movement, who was providing legal aid to Michael said: "The people took Michael to the police, and there he was accused of inciting civil disobedience and paying people to destroy public property. He ended up being interrogated by several agencies, and was put on trial." Michael was released after having been detained for days, but without dropping charges against him, which were finally dismissed, six months later (in August 2012).[32]

One of the worst violations during the first period of transition was the incident of sexual assault against the British journalism student, **Natasha Smith** in Tahrir Squar on the 24th of June 2012, corresponding to the day of announcing the victory of the Muslim Brotherhood candidate, Mohammad Morsi, during presidential elections. A group celebrating the outcome isolated **Smith** from her companions and started to tear her clothes off, and assaulted her sexually.[33]

Smith stated on her personal blog that she was in Egypt shooting a documentary on women's rights in Egypt as her graduation project. During her presence close to Tahrir Square she realized the jubilation for the victory of Morsi. However, she was suddenly attacked by a group of people who starting tearing her clothes in an attempt to sexually assault her. The assault continued until she thought she would die. "An ambulance forced its way through the crowd. It opened its doors, and was invaded by tens of men. It closed up and drove away." Smith had to hide in one of the tents with a group of women who helped later flee in disguise.[34]

---

30. For more details on the attack of Croline Sinz, check the website of France 24, on 1 December 2011, Paris: http://goo.gl/5c6ru6

31. Colvin, Mark. »Egypt is likely to deport Austrialian Journalist». ABC News, 13 February 2012. http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2012/s3429714.htm

32. Ibid.

33. Testimony of Natasha Smith with respect to the attack on her to CNN, on 28 June 2012, NY, USA: http://goo.gl/TW2EHF

34. For a full account of Smith's assault on her personal blog (26 June 2012) see: http://goo.gl/Pu1Jem

Violations from February 11th 2011 to June 30th 2012



3 Sexual assault



3 Temporary detention



3 Physical assaults and injuries

9 Violations

3. The period of Morsi’s reign up to the 30th of June 2013

The period during which the ex-president Morsi ruled from June 2012 and up to his ousting, the various media were clearly affected by the stark polarization between the supporters of the the-then-ruling Islamists and the proponents of a civilian state. Thus, each media followed an editorial policy that was rather closer to the camp supported thereby, with a tendency to present and at times adopt the political attitudes of this camp. This led many organizations, including AFTE, to express their aversion to campaigns of oppression many of the professionals in the press and media were subjected to.[35]

Despite the impact of political unrest on the Egyptian press during Morsi’s term, most of the testimonials to AFTE from foreign media professionals reflected a consensus on describing the environment for foreign media at the time as “relatively better”. It was so in terms of the margin and space of freedom that foreign correspondents enjoyed, which made them describe it as “less aggressive” compared to other periods.

Statistics used by the authors of this research recorded 10 assaults against journalists throughout Morsi’s reign on the 30th of June 2012 until the 30th of June 2013: one physical assault, 6 arrests, one murder, one rape, and one case of harassment.[36]

In his testimony to the AFTE’s team on the time during Morsi’s term, **Max Rodenbeck**, the Middle East Bureau Chief of *the **Economist***, stated that Morsi “tried to seem open to cooperation with foreign media. However, this did not negate cases of putting restraints on journalists from time to time. Foreign media did not experience (during Morsi’s reign) pressures similar to those experienced by local media.”[37]

Kristen McTighe, a freelance female journalist, who arrived to Egypt prior to the presidential elections bringing Morsi to power, agreed with Rodenbeck’s views, by describing the situation for foreign journalists at the time as “safer.” She stated in her testimony to AFTE: “My fear at the time of President (Morsi’s) reign was limited to fear from sexual harassment. However, now my fears extend to being accused with charges of spying or affiliation to Al-Jazeera.” She added, “Now that Morsi is ousted, I fear more for my safety.”[38]

Patrick Kingsley, the ***Guardian*** correspondent agreed with the former view. He confirmed during his interview with the AFTE researchers that “during the reign of ex-president Morsi, persecution of foreigners was not as it is now. The tone of incitement was not as strong as it became after his deposition. At the time, there was no need to provoke emotions.”[39]

The impressions of **Erin Cunningham**, the ***Washington Post*** correspondent in Cairo, resonated with the aforementioned statements. **Cunningham** confirmed in her testimony to the researchers

35. El Issawi, Fatima. »Egyptian Media under Transition: In the Name of Regime…in the Name of the People”. p. 57.

36. The details of such incidents can be read in the appendix on the abuses attached at the end of the study.

37. An interview held with Max Rodenbeck, he Middle East Bureau Chief of the Economist. September 2014.

38. An interview with Kristen McTighe, freelance journalist, September 2014.

39. Interview with Patrick Kingsley, The Guardian correspondent in Cairo, September 2014.

of AFTE that "through covering the events in Egypt at the time, the public anger was directed at the Egyptian government and the performance of Morsi, rather than to foreign press. Thus, antagonism and fear of foreigners in general and of journalists in particular, was much less."[40]

The openness to foreign media, as seen by **Rodenbeck**, is also confirmed by **Cunningham** by the sheer fact that "it was easier to talk to Morsi's Prime Minister and to communicate with the presidential office. Morsi's government did not believe the foreign media to be the enemy - it was rather the local media."[41]

This antagonism against the Egyptian media during Morsi's term, referred to by **Cunningham** and others, was manifest through the abuses experienced by Egyptian journalists at the time. These abuses ranged from physical abuse to prosecution as was the case with Bassem Youssuf, who was charged with "spreading false news" and "disdaining Islam."[42]

Physical threats also faced foreign correspondents by the supporters of the ex-president through besieging the Media City, and intimidating some of the guests coming in talk shows. Also, the Muslim Brotherhood supporters attacked 27 reporters as of August 2012 until Morsi's deposition on the 3rd of July, as observed by CPJ.[43] At the top of these assaults was the murder of the journalist Husseini abu Deif, after being shot with a live bullet in the head during covering demonstrations within the vicinity of the Presidential Palace (Itihadiyah) in December 2012.[44]

Despite the agreement among the majority of journalists and correspondents that hostility at Morsi's time was rather directed to local media, and that Morsi's regime was rather trying to sell itself to foreign media, still AFTE was able to record 11 cases of assaults against foreign correspondents. The starkest case was that of the photojournalist, Andrew Butcher, who got killed while shooting clashes between MB supporters and the opponents of the deposed ex-president.[45]

Most of these assaults were mainly sexual in nature, as was the case with **Sonia Dridi** of **France 24**, who was sexually assaulted during shooting in Tahrir Square, when a gang surrounded her and opened her blouse. However, her colleague, **Ashraf Khalil** managed to pull her away from those encircling her. Moreover, **Dridi's** and **Khalil's** bags were stolen during the attack.[46]

A Dutch correspondent, who decided to stay anonymous, was also raped in Tahrir Square on the 28th June 2013.[47] There several cases of arrest and detention, such as that of **Thomas Hartwell**, the photojournalist of the Associated Press, who was detained in the Shura Council building after having been arrested by a security officer while taking pictures of the wall in Qaser el-Eini street.

---

40. An interview with Erin Cunningham, the Washington Post correspondent in Cairo, via Skype, September 2014.
41. Ibid.
42. Mansour Sherif, »›Ala khat el-Inqisam:Hurryiat as Sahafa Muhdadah fi Misr» (On a dividing line: Freedom of the press jeopardized in Egypt).CPJ. 14 August 2013. p.3: http://cpj.org/ar/egypt2013-arabic.pdf
43. Ibid, p.5
44. Ibid, p.7
45. For more events on the incident see the annexed table listing the abuses during the term of the deposed ex-president.
46. Hussein, Abdel-Rahman. »France 24 journalist Sonia Dridi attacked in Tahrir Square». The Guardian. 21 October 2012: http://goo.gl/ULsIUI
47. For more events on the incident see the annexed table listing the abuses during the term of the deposed ex-president.

Hartwell, added in his testimony to the *Daily News Egypt*, that one of the security officers had stopped him to ask him about his presence in the area. Hartwell showed his press card and explained he was a journalist, at that point the officer tried to take his camera and asked him to accompany him to the *Shura* Council building. “Upon entering the building, I was asked about the pictures I took for the army, and the officer asked me what my opinion was on President Mohamed Morsy, and how many people actually support the Muslim Brotherhood.”[48] However, Hartwell was released and was given his equipment.

In a sense, the state and its security apparatus were active players in the abuses against foreign correspondents and journalists. The public participated in arresting foreign journalists and their submission to security forces as suspect spies. This attitude was based on the hateful media discourse against foreign press and media, which will be discussed in a later part of the report.

Thus, a coffee shop owner in Rehab City, in New Cairo filed a report against the Dutch journalist **Rena Netjes**, the correspondent of ***Een Vandaag***, accusing her of spying and attempting to depose Morsi. As a result, **Netjes** was arrested on the 8th of April 2013 for one night and her phone was confiscated, while holding an interrogation with her concerning charges, only to be released the following day.[49]

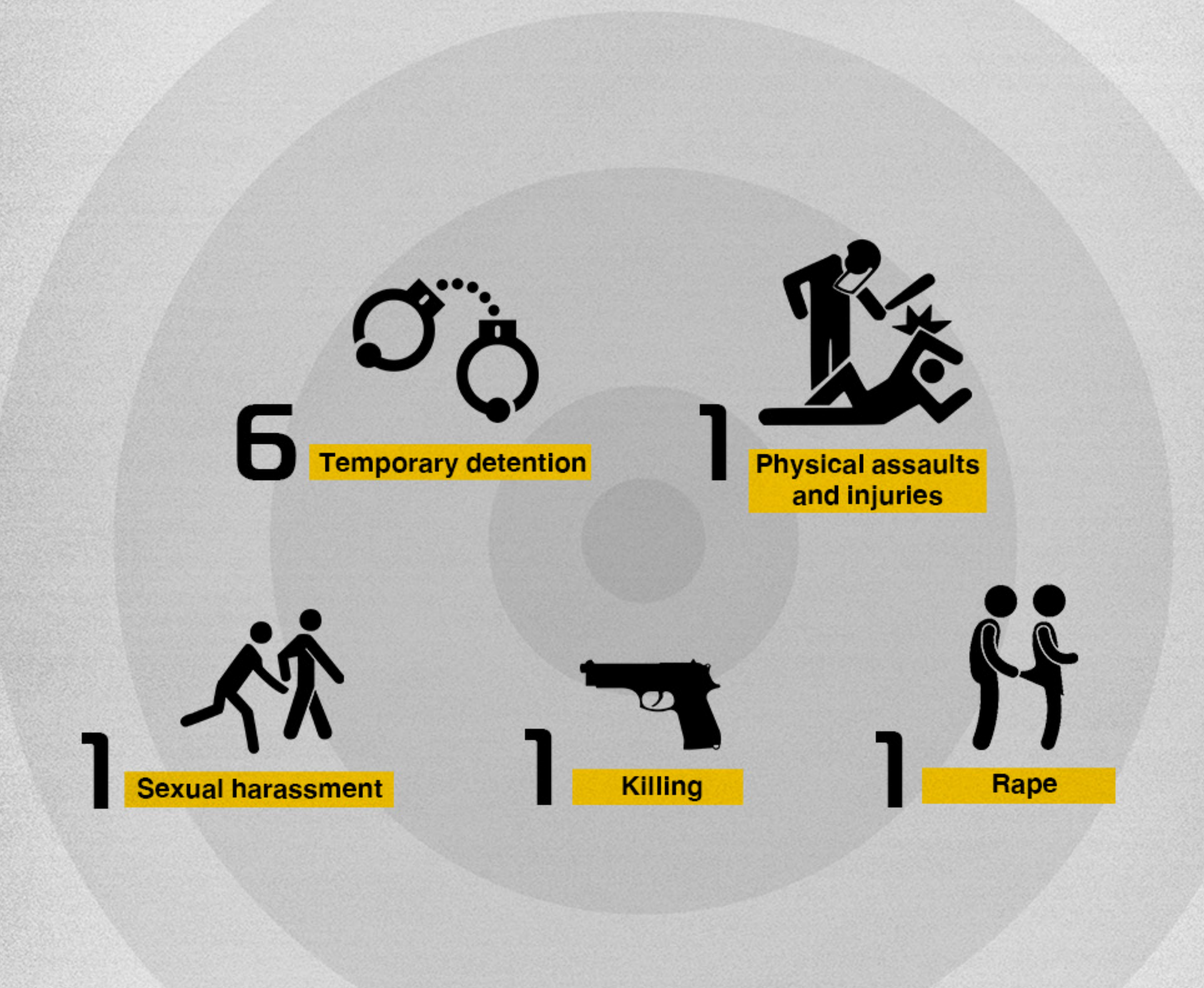
Kingsley was also detained by the army officers twice in Port Said in March 2013 for covering the curfew, upon being stopped by one of the citizens for suspecting that he was a spy - despite the fact that he carried a journalist permit.[50]

48. Sanchez, Luiz, «Associated Press journalist detained.” Daily News Egypt. 26 November 2012. http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2012/11/26/associated-press-journalist-detained/

49. Shanchez, Luiz. »Dutch Journalist arrested in Cairo». Daily News Egypt.. 9 April 2013. http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2013/04/09/dutch-journalist-arrested-in-cairo/

50. Interview with Patrick Kingsley, The Guardian correspondent in Cairo, September 2014.

Violations from June 30th 2012 to June 30th 2013



10 Violations

4. Post the 30th of June 2013 and up to October 2014

The events of the 30th of June were quite central to the developments in the political scene in Egypt, which reflected on the discourse of the media that mobilized conspicuously against the MB and the regime of the deposed Morsi.[51]

In the meantime, some foreign media upheld a discourse that delineated the deposition of the ex-president Morsi on the 3rd of July 2013 and the following measures taken as a form of restraint against the MB, supporters, and proponents, describing the actions as a "military coup." This media also insisted on the legitimacy of the ex-president's rule, in his capacity as "the first civilian elected president in Egypt."

This approach was severely attacked by the local media, who accused their counterpart with being agents and "MB supporters". This trend even aggravated to incitement against foreigners residing in Egypt, in general, which heightened the threat to the life of foreign journalists and correspondents in an unprecedented manner.[52]

AFTE observed 61 cases of assault against journalists, correspondents, and filming crews during the period 30th of June -October 2013. Out of these cases, 13 were physical assaults (with varying degrees of severity), one murder, 28 arrests and cases of detention, and 11 cases of confiscation and destruction of cameras, equipment and personal belongings.[53]

At the top of such assaults was the injury of the journalist Jeremy Bowen with pellet bullets in the head during covering the Republican Guard events on the 8th July 2013, which required surgery.[54] In his testimony to *the Guardian*, Bowen stated that he was covering the protests by the supporters of President Morsi, near the Republican Guard club. "As the crowd got angrier and angrier it started to surge forward and someone opened fire straight away from the military side. Before they had used any kind of teargas they resorted to live fire."[55]

Assaults against both Egyptian and foreign journalists continued alike, until they culminated during the dispersal of the Rabaa and Nahda sit-ins on the 14th of August 2013.[56] Three journalists were killed; one of them was the British cameraman, **Mick Deane** of Sky News, who died upon being shot in the heart. Doctors tried to save his life; however, he died within minutes upon arriving to hospital.

Moreover, two Egyptian journalists, **Mosaab el-Shami**, the Rasd correspondent, and **Ahmed Abdel Jawwad**, al-Akhbar journalists; while the former was sniped while filming the events of the dispersal, and the second died after having been shot at the back and taken to hospital.[57]

51. Amin, Shahira. "Egyptian media reflects xenophobic sentiment of military," XIndex. 14 August 2013. http://goo.gl/4T7nn2
52. Ibid.
53. The details of such incidents can be read in the appendix on the abuses attached at the end of the study.
54. Halliday, Josh. "BBC journalist Jeremy Bowen wounded in Egypt", The Guardian. 5 July 2013: http://goo.gl/n8cGBA
55. Ibid.
56. «The status of freedom of expression in Egypt 2013». AFTE. May 2014: http://goo.gl/CNK7TM
57. Ibid.

Moreover, the abuses included 24 cases of detention, on top of which is **Kingsley's** on the 17th August 2013 during al-Fath mosque clashes, as the mosque was used by the supporters of Morsi and the MB in holding the bodies of those killed during the clashes.

Kingsley stated in his testimony that he was surprisingly taken by one of the security officers in civilian clothes to the Azbakiyah police station. There, one of the officers viewed his photograph on his phone and compared it to his ID, allowing him to leave, and telling him "you may leave now, but never return to Egypt."[58]

On the very same day, **Kingsley** was arrested for 4 hours in Ghamra police station after having been "arrested" by four citizens during his coverage of al-Fath mosque. They had initially asked him about his affiliation to the MB. They stripped him of his bag, laptop, phone, and money. They took him away from his companion to a security point, where he was taken by two other individuals in civilian clothes on a motor bike to Ghamra station.[59]

Kingsley added , "There I was detained, and when I reported the theft of my personal belongings to the police, they confirmed that I will retrieve them shortly. An hour and a half later, one of those escorting me on the bike appeared and talked to the people there." He added , "I was later released."

Kingsley recounted, "the most surprising part is that the Foreign Press Center contacted me to tell me that they have been talking to the Ministry of Interior and that I can receive my belongings from Ghamra station. This confirmed to me that there is some coordination between those who kidnapped me and the MI." Kingsley explains that "during this time working or just being on the street for covering protests, or asking a passerby questions was not safe at all."

According to the testimonies of foreign correspondents and journalists who spoke to the AFTE researchers, abuses continued over the four months following the dispersal of the Rabaa and Nahda sit-ins. Many of them stated that the months of August up to November of 2013 were the "worst" ever.

One of the female journalists who was attacked on the 6th of October 2013, speaking on condition of anonymity for security reasons, said, "I, my colleague, and interpreter were covering the clashes in Dokki that day. Three armed civilians stopped us, and chased us through backstreets, until we managed to stop a taxi. However, on our way out, people were standing on the sides of the street holding sticks and checking taxis for foreigners. This was the worst day for me seeing many foriengers arrested by ordinary people."[60]

The same journalist comments on the period following the dispersal of both Rabaa and Nahda Squares saying: "These were the most difficult months, I believe, people always asked me and my other fellow reporters and correspondents if were working for al-Jazeera." She added , "the surroundings made you question your desire to write an article about a protest, or just another topic - all of your life was on the line. It was unfortunate that I had to stay and to practice self-censorship of sorts, in order to protect myself."[61]

58. Ibid.

59. Ibid.

60. Interview with a female freelance journalist who refused to mention her name, September 2014.

61. Ibid.

On that day as well in Dokki, the journalist from New Zealand, **Campbell Macdiarmid**, and the deputy managing editor of **Business Today Egypt**, was first chased, then assaulted and beaten by a group of civilians carrying sticks. The mobs first accused him of being an "American spy" and then they tried to steal his camera and bag, started beating him, and then delivered him to the police.

It is noteworthy that **Macdiarmid** was detained in the Dokki police station for hours without being charged. The police officer demanded that he hands in the memory card of the camera. However, he managed to hide it. Upon his release, the officer told him that he was assaulted by "the MB protestors."[62]

Later on in November, a US cameraman, **Aaron Rose**, of ***Daily News Egypt***, was arrested when he covered a protest of students supporting the ousted President in Al-Azhar University. Rose recounts, "During my attempt to leave the campus, a black car stopped my cab and two men in civilian clothes demanded that I step down and go with them."

Rose added , "When I tried to use my phone, they took it from me. They took me in their black car to one of the administrative buildings where they confiscated my personal belongings and detained me for an hour. I was then taken to Madinat Nasr Police Station, and from there to the public prosecutor's to face charges of breaking campus rules, and filming without obtaining all required permits from the University." [63] Rose concludes saying "ultimately, I was taken to the police station, because they decided to release me. However, they took my money and kept me in a cell for four hours."[64]

The list of abuses also include 5 cases of detention, including that of the reporter **Metin Turan**, the correspondent of the **Turkish TRT**, who was arrested while covering the events of al-Fath mosque and released in January 2014.

Annabell Van Den Berghe, the freelance journalist, stated in her testimony to AFTE, "During my preparation of a documentary during late October last year, I have been detained three times with the filming crew (**Bert Timmerman** and **Leslie Verbeeck**) despite possessing all the right permits for filming issued by the Foreign Press Center affiliated to SIS, ERTU."

The first time of detention was by an army officer on Salah Salem highway, when the crew was held in one of the offices of the Ministry of Defense, interrogated about their work and their footage, and had their equipment and belongings confiscated. All the personal photos of **Van Den Berghe** were erased from her personal phone.[65] After holding the crew for 4 hours, they were taken to one of the facilities of state security, close to Rabaa mosque, where interrogation was pursued by one of the officers concerning the footage and some shots for the film.

On the same month, the crew were arrested for the second time upon a report by one of the neighbors about the presence of the crew for no clear reason. According to **Van Den Berghe**,

62. MacDiarmid, Campbell. « Kiwi witness to battle for Cairo streets.» New Zealand Herald. 12 October 2013: http://goo.gl/1O1hNn

63. Ibid.

64. Aaron Rose›s testimony to AFTE via email, November 2013.

65. Testimony by Annabell Van Den Berghe to AFTE, November 2013.

“we were reported for no good reason but the suspicion of the reporter, because the crew had cameras.”[66]

The crew were arrested for the third time, when one of the subway officials suspected them for carrying cameras in one of the stops, despite not having used any of these cameras while on the metro.The crew were taken to the police station, and there one of the police officers assaulted **Van Den Berghe** by kicking her, causing bruises. The whole crew was held for 5 hours.

Despite the fact that most journalists interviewed by AFTE confirmed that the aftermath of Rabaa and Nahda dispersal was the most difficult time in terms of coverage and presence during events, incidents continued even in 2014, though at a lesser rate - as indicated by the number of incidents monitored by the research team, up to the time of publication of the report. Abuses started with the attack on the German first channel, **ARD**, on the 24th January 2014 during covering the explosion of the Cairo Security Directorate.

According to the testimony of the **Martin Kroger**, the crew tried to continue the coverage. However, once the car arrived to the scene, the public hailed obscene words on them, asking the crew about their employer and the permits. Upon showing the permit, the crew members were heavily assaulted and the crew was accused with “agency, treason, and terrorism.”[67]

The crew members were separated due to the violence of the assault. **Kroger** was led to a car park where he was “brutally” attacked, receiving blows on the head, stomach, and back, and almost failing to breathe, had it not been for police officers who shot in the air to disperse the crowds attacking Kroger. The driver was also beaten and kicked in the chest, making it difficult for him to breath. The producer was assaulted as well and sustained some head injuries. The camera tripod was stolen, and the microphone was destroyed.[68]

In a more recent attack in September 2014, a freelance Belgian photojournalist, speaking anonymously for security reasons, stated that she had always sustained nuisances from the public and security forces, whenever she tried to shoot in public places.[69] She was arrested on the Metro once for using her phone to shoot, while her phone was confiscated and all the pictures on it deleted. She was detained for a while on the Metro station.

66. Ibid.

67. The testimony of the ARD German photojournalist to AFTE, in translation.

68. The testimony of the ARD German photojournalist to AFTE, in translation.

69. Interview held with a Belgian photojournalist, via Skype, who spoke on condition of anonymity. October 2014.

Violations from June 30th 2013 to October 30th 2014



61 Violations

The case of Al-Jazeera journalists (The Marriott Cell): A turning point in the relationship with foreign journalists in Egypt

The case of Al-Jazeera journalists, dubbed as the "Marriott Cell", came to be a turning point in the relationship foreign journalists and correspondents have with Egypt. The Canadian journalist, **Mohammad Fadel**, and the Australian, **Peter Greste**, were sentenced to seven years maximum security imprisonment; and the cameraman, **Baher Mohammad**, was sentenced for 10 years. The charges were "broadcasting false news, membership in an illegal group, physical and material support to an illegal group, and possessing broadcasting equipment without obtaining permits from competent agencies."[70]

The events of the arrest of the three journalists date back to the 29th of December 2013, when their rooms in the Marriott hotel in Zamalek were raided. Their possessions (equipment, video cameras and photographic cameras, editing units, and live broadcasting equipment) were seized, according to information announced by National Security Agency. Suspects were imprisoned until the Giza Criminal Court issued a final sentence in July 2014.[71]

The justification of the sentence included the confirmation that the defendants exploited their media profession in falsifying truth, and that they served a banned terrorist group by showing the country in a state of chaos and unrest, representing it as a failed state suffering disagreement and internal warring, with the objective of causing the failure of national efforts to implement the roadmap.[72] The Court panel accused the defendants of joining a group established contrary to the law, disseminating false news and rumors, broadcasting such news on the internet and a satellite channel (al-Jazeera). Moreover, they were accused of possessing a recording and publicity medium with the objective of producing an untrue image of the country.

The sentence of al-Jazeera journalists unleashed a surge of widespread international disapproval, due to the aggravated nature of the sentences. AFTE in a joint press release issued on this judgment comments saying, "The sentence indicates that the Egyptian authorities have renounced their international obligations in several instruments on the freedom of expression and the press, particularly Article 19 of the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, which prohibited the restriction of the freedom of expression, except when provided for in the law for legitimate reasons. These standards were missing from the judgment, because none of them committed an act penalized by law. They have only been practicing journalism, protected by the Egyptian Constitution, as well as the Press Law 96/ 1996, which provided in Article VII that "It is impermissible that the opinion issued by a journalist or the true information published

70. The Criminal Court of Cairo postpones the case to the hearing on 5 March, AFTE, 20 February 2013: http://goo.gl/7vaK6c

71. Ibid.

72. Khaled Amr, Ibrahim Qurra›ah, and Muhammad Talaat Dawood, the Whereases of the judgment of the «Marriott Cell» Case. The defendants tried to show Egypt in a state of «strife, chaos, and internal war,» Al-Masry al-Youm, 22 July 2014: http://goo.gl/PxsSZ4 (in Arabic).

thereby represent grounds for infringing on his/her security.”[73]

The journalists in contact with AFTE expressed genuine fear for their personal safety after this sentence, and for facing the same destiny should their writings contradict the positions of the government. They have lost all hope for a fair trial, where their full rights are guaranteed. Moreover, some of them linked this harsh judgment to the reluctance of some to stay in Egypt, preferring to leave and work somewhere else.

Patrick Kingsley, *the* ***Guardian*** correspondent believes that “the sentence of imprisonment of al-Jazeera journalists was the outcome of the biased coverage of the Arabic channel. He confirmed that the Egyptian regime was under much international criticism for such an aggravated sentence of imprisonment. Thus, according to Kingsley, it is trying to improve the relationship with foreign journalists, by inviting them to dinner functions with the ministries concerned with security issues, such as the Ministry of Defense, and the Ministry of Interior, with the purpose of representing the views of the regime, and for praising the role of the Egyptian police forces. [74]

The EU criticized the imprisonment of al-Jazeera journalists and issued many demands requesting the release of the imprisoned journalists. Moreover, the European Parliament held a session on the freedom of expression and assembly, during which the members demanded immediate release of the journalists.[75] Foreign ministries of several countries censured the imprisonment of journalists and demanded their release and a stay-on-execution of this aggravated sentence. Advocacy campaigns were launched demanding the release of journalists imprisoned worldwide, key among which was the campaign led by the reporters of BBC English.[76]

Rodenbeck, further stated that, “with the judgment issued against al-Jazeera reporters, the image of the Egyptian judiciary is tarnished, having sentenced the journalists to scores of years only for doing their job. The scariest thing that the Egyptian government is doing is leveling charges against foreign press, casting doubt on its reports, and manipulating the space of freedom granted to it.”[77]

---

73. Joint press release: Aggravated prison sentences for al-Jazeera journalists is the severest and the most abusive of the freedom of the media in Egypt, 24 June 2014, Cairo: http://afteegypt.org/j_press_releases/2014/06/24/8006-afteegypt.html

74. Interview with Patrick Kingsley, The Guardian correspondent in Cairo, September 2014.

75. «European Parliament resolution on freedom of expression and assembly in Egypt,» European Parliament. 15 July 2014: http://goo.gl/bfKH72

76. «Egypt al-Jazeera case: Fresh calls to free reporters» BBC. 7 April 2014: http://goo.gl/JNKv7f

77. Interview held with Max Rodenbeck, the Middle East Bureau Chief of the Economist. September 2014.

Part II: Difficulties and Challenges facing the Work of Foreign Correspondents

Do foreign correspondents suffer from widespread "xenophobia"?

Oksana Yakushko, the professor of psychology in the University of Nebraska, Lincoln defines "xenophobia" as follows: "Xenophobia is a form of attitudinal, affective, and behavioral prejudice toward immigrants and those perceived as foreign." "However, some recent definitions of xenophobia suggest that the fear of foreigners and their impact is linked with ethnocentrism, which is characterized by the attitude that one's own group or culture is superior to others ...".[78]

Undoubtedly the events experienced by Egypt as of the 25th of January 2011 to the present have obviously changed the idea the state and society have of foreigners, in general. Some indicators confirmed that the state of "xenophobia" has been escalating over the past four years. Foreign correspondents and journalists were among the groups harmed with this sentiment, to the detriment of their working conditions. Some of them clearly indicated to AFTE their sense of the growing hostility due to their job as journalists and for the sheer fact that they are foreigners.

Foreign journalists and correspondents interviewed directly by AFTE explained the growing animosity against them and the continuous constraints they face in terms of complex reasons. Key among these reasons is the Egyptian media discourse that is primarily anti-foreign, a discourse that was fostered by the state at times.

Many state-owned media as of the 25th of January 2011 promoted ideas and arguments antagonistic to any social or political change, such as the incessant attack in the 25th of January Revolution and the goals thereof, brushed aside as the fruit of "foreign conspiracy". Hence, popular terms as "agendas" and "foreign fingers" became widespread - in an expression of rejecting alleged foreign interventions and conspiracies.

Maysa Ayoub, the research and outreach manager at the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, AUC stated in her testimony to the AFTE researchers, "The state has for long adopted the discourse of the existence of "foreign elements" who have been seeking to incite chaos since 25 January 2011 up to the present. This discourse is always invoked because it contributes to building a nationalist sentiment, strengthening the sense of affiliation, and promoting the unification among the ranks of Egyptians. This is indeed a false belief on the part of power. Thus, it seeks to use the media to link the use of this discourse and the rise of nationalism - a sentiment resorted to once more post the 30th of June."

Patrick Kingsley agrees with the argument proposed by **Ayoub**. He stated in his testimony to AFTE, "all parties are to blame, because this discourse hostile to foreigners is invoked regardless

78. Yakushko, Oksana, "Xenophobia: Understanding the Roots and Consequences of Negative Attitudes toward Immigrants", The Counseling Psychologist 37:1 (January 2009), pp. 43-44. http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1089&context=edpsychpapers

their attitudes and positions." The key party to blame, however, is the Egyptian media, given the messages of hatred disseminated thereby against foreign media, and the incitement against foreigners for being (spies working against the interest of Egyptians). These messages only aggravate the fear of society towards foreigners as well as caution and suspicion when dealing with foreign journalists and correspondents.[79]

The evidence of this growing intimidating discourse against foreigners were very clear as of January 2011; culminating, however in the summer of 2012, when the Egyptian TV produced 4 commercials warning against interaction with foreigners or giving them information.[80]

The various channels of Egyptian TV broadcast these advertisements in June of the same year. They featured a foreigner talking to young people, who seemed affiliated with the Revolution. However, the foreigner was repeating statements such as "conspiring against the army" and "fuel crises as well as the soaring prices." He received the responses and sent them to his superiors using his cell phone. At the end of the spot, the statement: "Every word has a cost... The word could save a nation" appears on screen.[81]

The advertisement triggered a massive reaction across social networks, as the messages warning against espionage and the way revolutionary youth were naively represented were subject of sarcasm. Thus, a decision was issued to stop broadcasting this footage, as a result of the heavy criticism leveled against it locally and internationally. However, according to the statements made by the chief of Nile channels, **Ali Abdel Rahman**, to AFP, the publicity was stopped due to the negative impact it had on tourism.[82]

Kingsley and one of the American journalists[83] working in Egypt believed that "Egyptians do not generally speaking hate foreigners, but are only keen that foreigners do not interfere in the domestic affairs of their country; and that the tone of suspicion against foreigners was not prevalent during the Revolution, because people were more open to the media, compared to the current situation."[84] Nonetheless, **Van Den Berghe** confirmed during her interview with the AFTE researchers that her journalistic work became more difficult compared to the past.

Van Den Berghe also added, "the nature of citizens on the street has become hostile and suspicious of foreigners persistently, talking to people on the street is becoming more difficult, especially after the incident I sustained while on Tahrir Square. Some citizens suspected me and accused me of being a spy; when I responded in Arabic, they thought I was an Israeli spy.

Had it not been for the intervention of some other people, I would have faced bigger problems"[85]

79. Interview with Patrick Kingsley, the Guardian correspondent, Cairo, September 14.

80. Ashraf Madbuli, «The Spies Advertisement" censured by the activists of Egypt. BBC Arabic. 8 June 2012: http://goo.gl/kRa3L

81. «Important: the first advertisement about spies in Egypt.» Youtube. 8 June 2012: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3kdHrXt7IU

82. The Egyptian TV stops the «Spies» advertisements, Al-Masry Al-Youm. 9 June 2012: http://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/184882

83. A journalist who spoke to AFTE's researchers anonymously for security reasons.

84. Interview with Patrick Kingsley, The Guardian correspondent in Cairo, September 2014.

85. Interview with Anabelle Van Den Berghe, freelance journalist commissioned by the public Belgian TV, Cairo, September 2014.

Along similar lines, a freelance Belgian female photojournalist working in Egypt since January 2013 (who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons), told AFTE researchers about the growing hostility she faces on the streets by passersby, who would usually be triggered by merely seeing her carrying a camera or taking a photograph on the street. Somebody would always pop up and tell her “stop” or would accuse her of being “a spy and an agent”, which put her on the defensive most of the time.[86]

The photojournalist added that she thinks that this widespread hostility against foreigners in the minds of the people is the responsibility of domestic media. People are encouraged to hinder the work of foreign correspondents and journalists under the pretext of preserving the reputation of the country worldwide. This view is confirmed by Tom Dale, who asserts that the major obstacle he faces while working in Egypt is “overcoming cultural barriers set against the coverage by foreigners of the events in the country. People in Egypt believe that they are entitled to prevent any journalist or reporter from photographing or recording just based on the fact that they are foreign.”[87]

Nadine Marroushi, The **Daily Telegraph** correspondent, recounts a similar incident of assault during passing through Tahrir Square on the 25th of January 2013 covering the third anniversary of the Revolution. She was attacked by a man who was suspicious of her presence and accused her of trying to “tarnish the image of Egypt before the world.” Despite, the fact that she showed her ID, the man still insisted on accusing her of working for al-Jazeera, and threatened of taking her to the police station. The ordeal culminated with her physical assault and the attempt to strangle her. She was only saved when she was taken away from the people to a residential building, and the police managed to disperse protestors.[88]

Erin Cunningham expressed her concern with the persistence of the pattern of hostility against foreigners, as she confirmed in her testimony to AFTE. “The state-owned media has been reiterating since 2011 false accounts and rumors about foreign communities in Egypt. Also, the media continuously referred to foreign media’s desire to undermine the Egyptian state. This is why it has become so difficult to take information from people without being harassed by the passersby, who did not save an effort to express their hostility to my presence as a journalist. We have been kicked and chased several times.”

Cunningham added, “Most of the time I have to take my interviewees to shops or coffee houses for personal safety. I have also become more cautious. The fact that I am escorted by one of my Arab friends has become a necessity, for interpretation and facilitation of communication with people. This indeed compromises the ability of correspondents to express the voices of the people in foreign media.”[89]

This was further confirmed by another American journalist, who spoke on condition of anonymity for safety purposes. She maintains that she has become more cautious during her

86. Interview with AFTE researchers via Skype, Cairo, September 2014.

87. Interview with Tom Dale, freelance journalist, with AFTE, Cairo, September 2014.

88. Interview with Nadine Marroushi, The Daily Telegraph correspondent, via Skype, September 2014.

89. Interview with Cunningham, a correspondent to the Washington Post in Cairo, via Skype, September 2014.

interviews to stay away from crowded spaces, after having been run down by a motor bike and chased by a group of people who harassed her while covering demonstrations prior to ousting the ex-president on the 3rd of July 2013.[90]

In the same vein, the environment where foreign correspondents work has become more difficult due to the harassment they face upon filming or photographing on the street. The correspondent would “expect from the passersby to delete the pictures or the videos on the camera, just for being a foreigner, to the extent that this practice has become so common or almost a law,” as indicated by **Tom Dale**, the freelance correspondent to the **Independent**.

Similarly, the owner of a gallery had lured an American journalist (who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons) to conduct an interview with her. The gallery owner then contacted the police for suspecting the work of the journalist. The journalist was shortly interrogated with by one of the police officers in the station where she was taken, only to be released shortly, as indicated to the AFTE researchers.[91]

The heightening abuses against foreign correspondents and journalists recently led the AFTE researchers to ask the journalists interviewed about conspicuous differences in the rates and patterns of hostility over the various periods post the 25 January Revolution. Most answered that the period with the highest level of hostility against foreign correspondents started after the ousting of ex-President Morsi, at varying degrees of severity until the protests of the 30th of June 2013.

Van Den Berghe recounted in her testimony, “I have no doubt that the most hostile time was post 30 June after the ousting of ex-President Morsi, and it still continues to the present. This comes in hand with the insistence of the citizens to conceal the truth and to present a certain image about the events. I believe that this was largely caused by the negative publicity against foreigners by the consecutive governments, to the extent that she does not attach her name to some pieces, for fear of the expected results.”

Erin Cunningham added in this regard, “Yes, xenophobia has always been there since the January Revolution, which made me fear for my physical integrity and my safety all the time. Nowadays, however, the fear of foreigners in public space is very obvious, to the extent that I am accused of being an agent or I get assaulted if I try to work in public places such as the street or in a coffeehouse.”

Many journalists further reiterated this sentiment by pointing to the important role played by state agencies in aggravating the state of hostility on the street towards foreigners. A freelance British journalist, who spoke anonymously for security reasons, informed in his testimony to AFTE of an incident in which he clashed with one of the security officers, during covering one of the protests and the confiscation of his equipment and passport without being able to retrieve them once again. He also felt reluctant to obtain a new passport due to realizing the magnitude of security risks attached to applying for a new passport.[92]

90. Interview with an American journalist, Cairo, September 2014.

91. Interview with an American journalist, Cairo, September 2014.

92. Testimony of a freelance British journalist to AFTE, Cairo, September 2014.

This complaint reiterated by foreign journalists, was also voiced by the SIS statement issued on the 17th of August 2013, which confirmed the pattern of stigmatizing coverage by foreign journalists in Egypt, as unprofessional and biased. In addition, the image of the Egyptian government internationally was defamed on the occasion of the events ensuing upon the dispersal of the squares of Rabaa and al-Nahda.[93]

The statement primarily focused on inviting foreign correspondents to provide balanced coverage and to pursue information concerning the situation in Egypt through SIS, and to be accurate and impartial towards all parties of the conflict at the time. This was based on the claim of protecting the image of Egypt worldwide, while blaming some western media of being biased to the MB and unable to see the 30th of June events as “an expression of popular will.”[94] The SIS statement, however, failed to make any reference whatsoever to the murder of the journalist **Mike Deane** during the dispersal of Rabaa and Nahda Squares, nor to other similar forms of assault against foreign journalists and correspondents by security forces.

In this regard, **Max Rodenbeck** stated during his interview with AFTE that the sources of hostility towards foreigners “change with the development of events. The current wage is led by government proponents, because they refuse to collaborate. Even worse, the public is provoked against foreign media on the grounds of spreading rumors or by leveling direct charges against these media.”[95]

Journalists interviewed by AFTE revealed the persistent harassment by government officials as well. **Annabelle Van Den Berghe** recounted the search raid by the police of her house for no good reasons. A British journalist, speaking anonymously for security reasons that one of the Foreign Ministry officials incessantly attacked her articles on social media accusing her of being biased to the MB. She even filed an official complaint against her in her workplace, which in turn corresponded with the journalist inquiring about the causes of the complaint and the seriousness of the charges leveled against her.

A freelance British journalist referred in his interview to the invitation by some of the Twitter users to the spokesman of the Armed Forces to comment on some of his pieces, which is an indication of the attempts to threaten him to stop the writings critical of the regime.[96]

Ultimately, the journalist **Nadine Marroushi**, confirmed to the AFTE researchers that she was more fearful than before, particularly that she knows that the police know where foreign journalists and correspondents live, because landlords usually leave information about the tenant at the police station.

---

93. «Egypt›s Information Service Statement to Foreign Journalists.» Egypt Information Service. 17 August 2013. http://goo.gl/1yPDvs
94. Ibid.
95. Interview with Max Rodenbck with AFTE, Cairo, September 2014.
96. Testimony of a freelance British journalist to AFTE, Cairo, September 2014.

Obstacles to access to information

Foreign journalists interviewed by AFTE agree on the difficulty of accessing documented information from government officials, which greatly compromises the ability of the journalists to have official information about the events, and hence their ability to present all opinions in their own writings. Thus, they end up being accused by the state and local media of bias to a particular side, and of distorting the image of Egypt abroad.

Generally speaking, foreign journalists and correspondents interviewed observed a new pattern of interaction with the government since the ousting of Morsi. Access to information from government officials has become even more difficult, with a few individual sporadic exceptions.

Van Den Berghe stated in her interview that one of the key challenges she faced in her work in Egypt over the past five years is the "lack of transparency" by state agencies and officials. Different sources have different versions of the story, and usually there is no material proof that can be verified.

Van Den Berghe stated that she had asked the spokesman of the Ministry of Electricity about the repeated power cuts in Egypt, and his response was that this happens everywhere including developed countries, which is what the journalist deemed as a falsification of facts. [97]

Max Rodenbeck, upon being asked whether the nature of press features is affected by the extent of cooperation from officials, he said: "The ability to get information from citizens changes from time to time, depends on the nature of the story covered, the existing conditions, and the fear to talk openly to journalists, because Egyptians are not keen to give a bad image of Egypt."[98]

Erin Cunningham stated, "Some government officials refused to give me interviews once they know with whom I worked. This affects my ability to do my job, especially with the persistent lack of transparency whenever a female journalist tried to get information from an official."

She added, "I believe that both the current and former regimes had their own approach to journalists and the press. Morsi's government would have exercised the same restrictions, had it continued. However, for the short period of Morsi's term, the government was not so stringent as it is nowadays."[99]

Rodenbeck confirmed, however, that he believes that the invitations sent to the foreign correspondents was rather for cosmetic purposes, and these meetings turned into social gatherings for pictures to be taken only. His analysis is supported by the event organized by the Ministry of Interior where a video was shown on the current security situation and the war on terrorism, without allowing the invited journalists at the time any opportunity to ask questions.

97. Interview with the journalist, Cairo, September 2014.

98. Interview with the journalist with AFTE, Cairo, September 2014.

99. Interview with Cunningham, a correspondent to the Washington Post in Cairo, via Skype, September 2014.

One of the American journalists interviewed also refered to "the difficulty of getting information from state officials, particularly those of the Ministry of Interior - which has never been open to foreign press - despite the facilitation of communication with the representatives of the Ministry at the time of ex-president Morsi. These agencies returned to the policy of concealment of information, as manifest in the reluctance of the Presidency spokesperson to respond to the phone calls, sufficing by issuing press releases via email.

These testimonies agree with the position taken by AFTE with respect to considering the policies adopted by the Egyptian governments misleading concerning truth. AFTE maintains in one of its position papers published last March on the International Day for the Right to the Truth, "we find the information politics of fact-finding missions inaccessible by the public. The government policies with respect to constructing conscience and memory sites isolated from a package of transitional justice procedures and policies. Thus, we are motivated to urge independent agencies to create an information base independent from power and the security grip."

In the same regard, **Rodenbeck** believed that "the approach followed by government officials with respect to facilitating the job of journalists to access information, is in reality a method to dictate specific information to be published as facts. It also entails that any contradictory or opposing information is deemed an open attack against the government."[100]

This was reiterated by another British freelance journalist in his account stating that once "one of the officials from whom he requested an interview agreed on condition of receiving the interview questions before hand to share them with the competent authorities prior to responding to them - which seemed to me a clear form of blackmail on his part."[101]

By asking **Rodenbeck** about his view concerning security considerations used as grounds for refusing to collaborate with the foreign media, he stated that he believes that "security considerations are relevant worldwide." However, he confirmed respect and understanding of some red lines at times of crisis, but as such the work of journalists is hampered. This indeed confirms that the Egyptian government no longer welcomes foreign press as it used to."[102]

Tom Dale recalled the incident of being summoned by the Cairo Foreign Press Center in SIS for not obtaining a permit prior to publishing a piece on the use of Dekheila port as an entry and transit point for illegal immigration boats, despite the common knowledge that this port is controlled by the Army. However, he had contacted the press spokesperson of the Army for commenting prior to publication, and was referred to contacting on of the SIS officials, which he did without receiving any response.

Dale commented on this measure saying, "It seemed to me that the person in charge is not clear. Moreover, there were no rules on the issues that require permission prior to investigation."[103]

100. Interview with the journalist with AFTE, Cairo, September 2014.

101. Interview with a journalist, Cairo, September 2014.

102. Testimony by, Max Rodenbeck to AFTE, Cairo, September 2014.

103. Interview conducted by AFTE's researchers with a journalist.

Do work permits provide sufficient protection for journalists?

Journalists interviewed by AFTE were divided on the significance of acquiring a work permit as a journalist with respect to the safety and security of foreign correspondents, or the respect by the authorities to their right to disseminate information. Some believe that the process of obtaining permits is very complicated and bureaucratic, while others believe it to be a key factor in preserving safety and security from any harassment by the state officials or citizens.

Patrick Kingsley stated that the procedures for obtaining permits include applying to the SIS affiliated Cairo Foreign Press Center in Maspero, and filing the following documents:

- A letter from the paper proving affiliation as a journalist;
- A letter from the state of nationality of the journalist, indicating the paper to which s/he is affiliated;
- Another letter from the embassy of Egypt in the journalist's state (in London in his case);
- A set of completed forms and some personal photos; and
- A copy of the resume of the journalist.

Kingsley confirmed that it took him a long time to obtain a permit, two months behind the specified time, which hindered him from embarking on his work. However, he maintains that being hired to work for a prominent paper, such as the *Guardian*, facilitated his obtainment of the permit, compared to his other colleagues working on freelance basis or rather sending their pieces to online sources. These groups are arbitrarily dealt with by the officials of the Center - who were described as doing their best though, because their work is rather hampered by other red tape measures.

Rodenbeck, of *the Economist*, agreeed with **Kingsley** that the permit does not necessarily provide sufficient security to the journalist, confirming that correspondents of online sits could face some arbitrary treatment by the Press Center's officials. However, he added that throughout his stay in Egypt, obtaining permits and permits to cover presidential news has always been helpful.[104]

Nonetheless, according to **Kingsley**, when asked about special protection accorded to the holders of permits compared to others who do not, he responded that at times permits disclose to the authorities personal information about the journalist as residence and phone numbers, which could mean easier wiretapping and surveillance.

Van Den Berghe, however, stated that she had applied for a permit after having submitted two work letters to the Press Center, one from her former news agency and another from the embassy confirming the existence of the agency. She needed the permit to cover current events and protests.

104. Interview with the journalist with AFTE, Cairo, September 2014.

For the first time, the permit did not take that long, but it required few months in subsequent times. Most of her permits were temporary, and renewed on quarterly basis.

Cunningham, of the **Washington Post**, commended in her interview with AFTE the procedures for obtaining permits, describing the process as “direct” or “easy”, despite acknowledging that some measures could be arbitrary such as the letter from the embassy - which is not a requirement for any of the permits or visas elsewhere.

Similarly, a British freelance journalist, speaking anonymously for security reasons, stated that obtaining a permit is better because it makes her job easier, as it enabled her many times to enter places and cover events, she would not otherwise have had access to.[105]

On the contrary, an American freelance journalist, speaking anonymously for security reasons, described the process of obtaining permits as “unnecessary” and “ambiguous”, which drove him to quit the idea due to the “annoying” bureaucracy of the Press Center officials. He believed that the requirements are somehow “unfeasible”, because he was required to obtain an alternative letter from his embassy, as the letter he presented was “not valid” because it was not written on the letterhead. Thus, he was driven to obtaining a “temporary” permit that helped him many times to get out of trouble.

105. Interview with a journalist, October 2014.

Part III. The role of foreign media in raising public issues and recommendations

The role of foreign media in presenting public issues

Rasha Abdullah, former Dean of the Department of Journalism, AUC, believes that "the adoption by some of the foreign media a de-contextualized description of the events in Egypt over last year, made their coverage seem "unbalanced". She added that she also understands the difficulty of the working conditions for foreign correspondents and journalists who jeopardize their life and physical integrity to be able to reach all parties to give a rather round view of the events.[106]

Cunningham refered in her testimony to the "mistakes committed in some foreign coverage of political events, naturally. These mistakes could be justified by the limited space permissible for writing. However, they are no grounds for the incessant criticism by the Egyptian media. This attack has exposed our lives, we the journalists, to imminent danger.

She stated that "contrary to the false accounts, all the journalists, I know, working on the Egyptian situation at the time were critical of Morsi and the way he managed matters. Therefore, the claim that western media supported Morsi, is completely false."[107] She also added , "when you find some of the western media talking about the way of dealing with Morsi post 3 July, without talking sufficiently about 30 June, such is the case, because the news, naturally, focus on current events. Nonetheless, most of the media I personally follow were trying to represent the context in which Morsi was ousted."

Some observers disagreed with **Cunningham's** argument, interpreting the tone of rising hostility against foreign media as the result of "the insistence of some western media to describe the ousted president as the first elected civilian president, without referring to the 30 June protests. This rather created a de-contextualized view of the events in Egypt a the time, which contributed to misleading some and gaining their sympathy to a specific view," as indicated by **Ahmad Kheir**, the Director of Support Center for Information Technology in a press interview in August 2013 to Daily News Egypt.

Despite portraying foreign media as lying and desiring to deface Egypt, private Egyptian media, prior to 30 June events, was rather representing the state viewpoint, overlooking key issues and cases raised and discussed by foreign correspondents in their articles and features about the events in Egypt.

CNN, for instance, opened the issue of "virginity tests" upon the publication of some details about the issue by Amnesty International, which is a case that the Armed forces negated any involvement in. The report covered by CNN discussed the statement by a military officer where he confirmed that "military forces conducted 17 virginity tests on young women arrested during a protest on the 9th of March, on the International Women's Day."[108] This, thus shed light on such a complicated issue.

106. El Masry, Sarah. «Polarized, politicized and biased: Covering Egypt,» Daily News Egypt. 21 August 2013: http://goo.gl/J162Xe

107. Interview with Cunningham, a correspondent to the Washington Post in Cairo, via Skype, September 2014.

108. Amin, Shahira. «Egyptian General admits ‹virginity checks› conducted on protesters,» CNN. 31 May 2011: http://goo.gl/JCBMT9

Upon the ousting of Morsi, a lengthy press report was issued by New York Times addressing the return of General Mohammad Farid Tohamy to working in the Intelligence Agency, discussing his professional record in the Egyptian government, and opening other files of corruption addressed by the Egyptian media during Morsi's term, which ended up with the dismissal of Tohamy from his position and the initiation of official investigations in corruption cases in his name. The report concludes with queries about the reasons of reinstating Tohamy to be the head of such a sovereign body, despite his record of corruption.[109]

In a scoop, a feature by the *Guardian* presented the testimonies of some detainees, lawyers, and rights activists on the incidents of systematic torture against detainees in Al-'Azouli military prison in Ismailiyah. The feature opened this file of disappearance of some detainees as of July last year, and indicated the number of political prisoners and the methods of their torture and interrogation. The feature was very informative in an unprecedented manner, in addition to providing a map of the prison drawn based on the testimony of former inmates.[110]

In another article, **Kingsley** addressed procedural mistakes on the part of the court during the sessions of trying Al-Jazeera journalists, based on the sessions he attended. The article detailed six mistakes in the Report prepared by the technical commission, the use of video footage as a proof of conviction without being relevant evidence, and the use of unclear recordings as a proof of guilt, in addition to many other defects illustrating that the court failed to implement the law correctly.[111]

Kingsley opened as well, in one of his articles, the file of eviction of thousands of Egyptian families from two villages along the line of the new Suez Canal project by the government, without appropriate compensation. The journalist held interviews with members of the two villages and tried to interview the military spokesman, with no comment from the latter on the eviction measures for digging purposes.[112] This is all evidence that foreign correspondents open issues of public interest that Egyptian journalists cannot deal with easily.

109. Kirkpatrick, David. «Ousted General in Egypt is back.» The New York Times. 30 October 2013: http://goo.gl/7ODJmx

110. Kingsley, Patrick. «Egypt's secret prison: 'disappeared' face torture in Azouli military jail,» The Guardian. 22 June http://goo.gl/Bqt02H

111. Kingsley, Patrick. «Six flaws in the case against three jailed al-Jazeera journalists,» The Guardian. 24 June 2014. http://goo.gl/ZTxHdm

112. Kingsley, Patrick. «Thousands of Egyptians evicted without compensation for Suez project.» The Guardian. 3 September 2014. http://goo.gl/IyynUZ

Recommendations

- AFTE believes in the urgency of putting an end to supporting hate speech on the various media that provoke hostile feelings towards foreign media; or stigmatize correspondents as agents and desiring to deface the image of the state and abuse the national interests thereof. This speech has direct negative impact on the environment in which foreign correspondents work and on their safety and security.

- AFTE reiterates the repeated demands from the authorities to abide by international undertakings including the protection of journalists and the creation of a safe environment for them, while refraining from targeting them and imprisoning them with no solid justification.

- AFTE affirms that the Cairo Foreign Press Center officials should understand the nature of the work of their clients, and as such they need to facilitate the procedures required for the obtainment of permits, particularly in the case of online correspondents. Such is the case, as this issue was raised with all journalists interviewed for the purposes of the report.

- As stated in one of the testimonies of one of the journalists, AFTE believes in the importance of establishing transparent measures to familiarize foreign journalists with the standard practice rules: starting with the Statutes of the Press Center, and procedures for obtainment of permits. This information needs to be published in various languages on an official website that can be easily accessed by journalists, so that they would have a clear knowledge of the way foreign media should operate in Egypt.

- AFTE reiterates the importance of adopting policies and procedures that are more transparent concerning the acknowledgement of the right of journalists to access and disseminate information. The foreign journalist should not be depicted as a “spy” instead of being represented as a bearer of information. This should be the case, if there is a real desire on the part of state apparatus to facilitate the access by foreign journalists and correspondents to information related to the decisions issued by state agencies and institutions. Thus, AFTE re-confirms the urgency of the issuance of the Access to Information Law, due to its key relevance to the profession of journalism in general.

Appendix: Violations against Foreign Reporters and Correspondents (January 25th, 2011 – October 2014)

Name	Job	Institution	Date of Violation	Type of Violation
Wally Nell	Correspondent	Zuma Press	25 January 2011	Had several pellet wounds after being shot by police on Six of October Bridge.
Christiane Amanpour	Correspondent	ABC News	02 February 2011	Crew car was attacked and smashed by pro Mubarak protesters. She survived the attack with no injuries.
David Common	Correspondent	Canadian CBC News	02 February 2011	Security forces broke into his room searching for cameras.
Jean-Francoise Lepene	Correspondent	Radio Canada	02 February 2011	Assaulted by pro Mubarak protesters nearby Cairo Airport.
Sylvain Castonguay	Photographer	Radio Canada	02 February 2011	Assaulted by pro Mubarak protesters nearby Cairo Airport.
Patrik Matin	Correspondent	The Globe and Mail	02 February 2011	Detained in a military check point, and had her passport confiscated.
Sonia Verma	Correspondent	The Globe and Mail	02 February 2011	Detained in a military check point, and had her passport confiscated.
Neil Hallsworth	Photographer	CNN	02 February 2011	Assaulted and banned from filming by pro Mubarak protesters, who attempted smashing his camera.
Anderson Cooper	Producer	CNN	02 February 2011	Assaulted and banned from filming by pro Mubarak protesters.

Hala Gorani	Correspondent	CNN	02 February 2011	Assaulted and pushed against a wall by thugs.
Serge Dumont known as Maurice Sarfatti	Correspondent	Le Soir Newspaper (Denmark)	02 February 2011	Assaulted by group of protesters after suspecting that he supports Al-Baradei (opposition leader at this time), then detained by two conscripts.
Steffen Jensen	Correspondent	Danish Television	02 February 2011	Assaulted by pro Mubarak protesters, and detained by conscripts in Tahrir square, then released.
Jerome Boehm	Correspondent	BBC	02 February 2011	Assaulted and banned from filming by pro Mubarak protesters.
Mark Strassman	Correspondent	CBS News	02 February 2011	Assaulted with his cameraman by pro Mubarak protesters.
Petros Papaconstantinou	Correspondent	Kathemirini Newspaper (Greece)	02 February 2011	Assaulted, stabbed in his leg, and then moved to hospital for treatment.
Metin Turan	Correspondent	TRT Television (Turkey)	02 February 2011	Assaulted, and had his money and camera robbed.
Erol Candabakoðlu	Correspondent	Fox News	02 February 2011	Abducted with his driver by thugs at gun point, Egyptian authorities intervened in the search process.
Doðan Ertuðrul	Correspondent	Star Daily Newspaper (Turkey)	02 February 2011	Assaulted by pro Mubarak protesters.
Ýsa Þimþek	Photographer	Today’s Zaman	02 February 2011	Assaulted by pro Mubarak protesters.

Joan Roura	Correspondent	TV3 Catalonia	02 February 2011	Group of civilians assaulted him and attempted robbing his phone.
Sal Emergui	Correspondent	RAC Catalonia Radio	02 February 2011	Assaulted while filming.
Cumali Önal	Correspondent	Today's Zaman	02 February 2011	Assaulted by pro Mubarak protesters.
Peter van Agtmael	Photographer	Wall Street Journal	02 February 2011	Assaulted and stoned by pro Mubarak protesters.
Greg Palkot	Correspondent	Fox News	02 February 2011	Physically assaulted, and hospitalized.
Olaf Wiig	Correspondent	Fox News	02 February 2011	Physically assaulted, and hospitalized.
Ashley Webster	Correspondent	Fox News	02 February 2011	Security forces broke into his hotel room, banned him with his crew from filming protests from hotel's balcony.
Katie Couric	Correspondent	CBS News	02 February 2011	The crew had been harassed, and banned from filming protests.
Harald Doornbos	Correspondent	GPD News Agency (Netherlands)	02 February 2011	Assaulted by armed civilians.
Jon Bjorgvinsson	Correspondent	RUV	02 February 2011	Assaulted while photographing protests, his camera was smashed.
Brian Hartman	Correspondent	ABC News	03 February 2011	Stopped at a civilian check point, and threatened of being beheaded in Airport – downtown road.
Lara Setrakian	Correspondent	ABC News	03 February 2011	Arrested by police forces in front of Israeli Embassy, and released next day.

Johm Williams	Correspondent	BBC	03 February 2011	His equipment had been confiscated in Hilton Cairo.
Wyre Davies	Correspondent	BBC	03 February 2011	Assaulted by protesters in Alexandria.
Rupert Wingfield-Hayes	Correspondent	BBC	03 February 2011	Arrested by security forces in civilian attire. He was shackled and detained with his crew for three hours.
Bert Sundstrom	Correspondent	SVT Television (Sweden)	03 February 2011	Assaulted with a knife, stabbed in the back and had an urgent surgery.
Eduard Sanjuan	Correspondent	Catalan TV	03 February 2011	Assaulted while photographing, detained for five hours then released.
Mireia Pigrau	Correspondent	Catalan TV	03 February 2011	Assaulted while photographing, detained for five hours then released.
Sandra Rierola	Correspondent	Catalan TV	03 February 2011	Assaulted while photographing, detained for five hours then released.
Lluis Jene	Correspondent	Catalan TV	03 February 2011	Assaulted while photographing, detained for five hours then released.
Walter Ojeda	Correspondent	Catalan TV	03 February 2011	Assaulted while photographing, detained for five hours then released.
Roser Oliver	Correspondent	Catalan TV	03 February 2011	Assaulted while photographing, detained for five hours then released.

Gemma Saura	Correspondent	La Vanguardia	03 February 2011	Assaulted and robbed by pro Mubarak protesters.
Mikel Ayztaran	Correspondent	Group Vocento	03 February 2011	Assaulted by pro Mubarak protesters.
Leila Fadel	Correspondent	The Washington Post	03 February 2011	Assaulted by Ministry of Interiors, detained then released.
Linda Davidson	Photographer	The Washington Post	03 February 2011	Assaulted by Ministry of Interiors, detained then released.
Ian Volger	Photographer	The Daily Mirror (UK)	03 February 2011	Assaulted and beaten by thugs in Cairo.
Alun Palmer	Correspondent	The Daily Mirror (UK)	03 February 2011	Assaulted and beaten by thugs in Cairo.
James Hider	Correspondent	The Times	03 February 2011	Assaulted with his correspondent wife by civilians in a Cairo district.
Margaret Warner	Correspondent	PBS	03 February 2011	Her camera lenses have been confiscated by Airport customs.
Lourdes Garcia Narravo		NPR Radio (US)	03 February 2011	Mobs crowded around her and attempted assaulting her.
Andrew Lee Butters	Correspondent	Time	03 February 2011	Assaulted and intimidated by civilians collaborating with Police.
Corban Costa	Correspondent	Radio Nacional – Brazil National Radio	03 February 2011	Arrested by Egyptian police and detained for a night without water. His passport was confiscated.

Gilvan Rocha	Correspondent	TV Brazil	03 February 2011	Arrested by Egyptian police and detained for a night without water. His passport was confiscated.
Alfred Yaghobzadeh	Correspondent	Sipa Press (France)	03 February 2011	Injured while reporting on clashes between anti and pro Mubarak protesters.
Krzysztof Ko³osionek	Correspondent	TVP – Polish Television	03 February 2011	Arrested and detained. Crew's camera had been smashed.
Piotr Bugalski	Correspondent	TVP – Polish Television	03 February 2011	Arrested and detained. Crew's camera had been smashed.
Micha³ Jankowski	Correspondent	TVP – Polish Television	03 February 2011	Arrested and detained. Crew's camera had been smashed.
Piotr Górecki	Correspondent	TVP – Polish Television	03 February 2011	Arrested and detained. Crew's camera had been smashed.
Pawe³ Rolak	Correspondent	TVP – Polish Television	03 February 2011	Arrested and detained. Crew's camera had been smashed.
Adelin Petrisor	Correspondent	TVR – Romanian Television	03 February 2011	Arrested and checked by police forces, then released.
Cristian Zarescu	Correspondent	Realitatea TV (Romania)	03 February 2011	Arrested and detained by Egyptian authorities. All his video tapes had been confiscated then released.
Carmen Avram	Correspondent	Antena TV (Romania)	03 February 2011	Arrested and interrogated by Egyptian Police.
Christian Tamas	Correspondent	Antena TV (Romania)	03 February 2011	Arrested and interrogated by Egyptian Police.

Geiorgos Moutafis	Freelance Photographer	Greek	03 February 2011	Assaulted by pro Mubarak protesters.
Cryil Louis	Correspondent	Le Figaro	03 February 2011	Arrested in Abu Homs City, near Alexandria
Wissam Charaf	Correspondent	ARTE	03 February 2011	Detained and had his passport confiscated.
Rajesh Bhardawi	Correspondent	CNN	03 February 2011	Detained for half an hour by army, then released.
Michael De Moor	Correspondent	VTM Television (Netherlands)	03 February 2011	Arrested and interrogated for three hours by security forces, then released.
Tim Verheyden	Correspondent	VTM Television (Netherlands)	03 February 2011	Arrested and interrogated for three hours by security forces, then released.
Rosa Mollo	Correspondent	TVE Television (Spain)	03 February 2011	Assaulted. All her documentations have been taken.
Peter Stefanovic	Correspondent	9 News (Australia)	03 February 2011	Arrested and interrogated then released with his crew. The hotel confiscated the crew's camera.
Eric Feijten	Freelance Photographer	NOS Television (Denmark)	04 February 2011	Detained for a while
Ayman Mohy-eldin	Correspondent	Aljazeera TV	06 February 2011	Checked by security forces while trying to access Tahrir Square, shackled and detained in nearby check point and was asked about reasons for being in Egypt.

<table>
<tr><td>Lara Logan</td><td>Correspondent</td><td>CBS</td><td>11 February 2011</td><td>Sexually assaulted in Tahrir Square by demonstrators celebrating Mubarak’s step down.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Guillem Valle</td><td>Photographer</td><td>Wall Street Journal</td><td>22 November 2011</td><td>Physically assaulted by civilians collaborating with police, and has been hospitalized after the assault.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Dana Smilie</td><td>22 November 2011</td><td colspan="3">Arrested in Cairo and taken into military premises, interrogated for five hours then released.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mona El Tahawy</td><td>24 November 2011</td><td colspan="3">Sexually assaulted by Tahrir Square protesters. Detained by Military Intelligence for 12 hours (according to her own account).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Caroline Sinz</td><td>Correspondent</td><td>France 3</td><td>24 November 2011</td><td>Group of men crowded around her, sexually assaulted her and physically assaulted her photographer colleague.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Evan Hill</td><td>Correspondent</td><td>Aljazeera TV</td><td>16 December 2011</td><td>Arrested while reporting on clashes in Cairo University. Assaulted and detained for few hours.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Natasha Smith</td><td>28-June-12</td><td colspan="3">Sexually assaulted and had her cloths ripped off by crowds celebrating presidential election results in Tahrir Square.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Thomas Hartwell</td><td>Photographer</td><td>The Associated Press</td><td>26 September 2012</td><td>Arrested nearby Qasr Al-Einy St., and detained by Egyptian Police. Interrogated and released after one hour.</td></tr>
</table>

Sonia Dridi	Correspondent	France 24	19 October 2012	Sexually harassed while filming videos in Tahrir Square.
Austin Mackell	02-November-12	Arrested and detained for few days, and interrogated by Military intelligence in Mahalla City while reporting on calls for civil disobedience in Egypt. Released and deported.		
Patrick Kingsley	Correspondent	The Guardian	09 March 2013	Arrested by citizens in Port Said Governorate after suspecting she is a spy. Citizens handed her over to Army which detained him for one hour then released him after checking his identity.
Louisa Lovelock	Correspondent	The Washington Post	09 March 2013	Arrested by citizens in Port Said Governorate after suspecting she is a spy. Citizens handed her over to Army. She was detained for a while and released.
Rena Netjes	Correspondent	Eén Vandaag	08 April 2013	Arrested by a café owner in Al-Rehab City while interviewing the café customers.
Andro Potcher	28 June 2013	Stapped while photographing clashes erupted between pro-Morsi and anti-Morsi in Alexandria		
Dutch Reporter	28 June 2013	Raped in Tahrir Square. Dutch Embassy in Cairo issued a statement concerning the incident.		
Daniel Demoustier	05 July 2013	Arrested and detained for a short while		

Jeremy Brwen	Correspondent	BBC	05 July 2013	Received two bullets; in foot and ear, from Egyptian police while reporting on Republican Guard Department clashes.
Ben Wedemann	Correspondent	CNN	05 July 2013	Checked with his crew by military police. Broadcast was cut for a while.
Emmerich Dirk	Correspondent		08 July 2013	Arrested and detained for a short while.
Murat Uslu	Correspondent	Star TV (Turkey)	09 July 2013	Military police arrested and detained him, and confiscated his equipment for not having required work permits.
Zafer Karakas	Correspondent	Star TV (Turkey)	09 July 2013	Military police arrested and detained him, and confiscated his equipment for not having required work permits.
Mitsuyoshi Iwashige	Photographer	Demotix	09 July 2013	Arrested with a group of journalists and detained for few hours.
Fatih Er	Correspondent	A Haber (Turkey)	09 July 2013	Taken into military custody in the neighborhood of Nasr City, and kept in custody for few hours.
Tufan Guzelgun	Correspondent	A Haber (Turkey)	09 July 2013	Taken into military custody in the neighborhood of Nasr City, and kept in custody for few hours.
Louis Jammes	14-August-13	Arrested – among group of journalists and the photographer – during Rabaa dispersal, assaulted and detained.		

Mike Giglio	14-August-13	Arrested – among group of journalists – during Rabaa dispersal, assaulted and detained.		
Mick Deane	Correspondent	Sky News	14 August 2013	Killed by a live bullet during clashes erupted between police and sit-in protesters
Sebastian Backhaus	14 August 2013	Arrested and detained for breaking the curfew imposed after Rabaa dispersal.		
Tom Finn	Correspondent	Reuters	14 August 2013	Checked by military police, and detained for 15 minutes during Rabaa dispersal.
Three crew members	Staff	Russia 24	15 August 2013	Have been intimidated. Their cameras, laptops and money had been stolen.
Metin Turan	Correspondent	TRT Television (Turkey)	16 August 2013	Arrested while reporting on Al-Fatih Mosque clashes, released on January 2014
Jared Malsin	16 August 2013	Checked by a vigilante groups in Ramsis neighborhood, assaulted and got his equipment confiscated.		
Cliff Cheney	16 August 2013	Checked by a vigilante groups in Ramsis neighborhood, and got his equipment confiscated.		
Jon Greyson	16 August 2013	Arrested while reporting on clashes that erupted between security forces and supporters of ousted president Morsi. Detained for 50 days and released after going into hunger strike.		
Tarek Loubani	16 August 2013	Arrested while reporting on clashes that erupted between security forces and supporters of ousted president Morsi. Detained for 50 days and released after going into hunger strike.		

Patrick Kingsley	Correspondent	The Guardian	17 August 2013	Arrested many times and detained few hours. Got his equipment confiscated.
Hugo Bachega	17-August-13	Arrested while reporting on Ramsis Square clashes. Detained for seven hours and released after intervention from Brazilian Embassy.		
Arnaud Gidon	Correspondent	France 2	17 August 2013	Arrested and detained for 10 hours.
Dorothée Olliéric	Correspondent	France 2	17 August 2013	Arrested while reporting of Al-Fatih Mosque clashes, along with her crew, and detained for 10 hours
Stéphane Guillemot	Photographer	France 2	17 August 2013	Arrested while reporting of Al-Fatih Mosque clashes, along with her crew, and detained for 10 hours
Matt Bradley	Correspondent	Wall Street Journal	17 August 2013	Protesters in front of Al-Fatih Mosque assaulted him and stole his laptop, but he was rescued by army conscripts and dragged away into an armored vehicle.
Alastair Beach	Correspondent	The Independent	17 August 2013	Assaulted by protesters in front of Al-Fatih Mosque, then rescued by army conscripts and dragged away into an armored vehicle.
Annabell Van Den Berghe		VRT Radio (Belgium)	17 August 2013	Assaulted, along with her crew, by protesters in front of Al-Fatih Mosque.

<table>
<tr><td>Matthias Gebauer</td><td>Correspondent</td><td>Der Spiegel</td><td>18 August 2013</td><td>Arrested in Rabaa Square. Detained for seven hours.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bilge Egemen</td><td>Correspondent</td><td>Plus One TV (Turkey)</td><td>18 August 2013</td><td>Assaulted by pro-Morsi protesters in Tahrir Square</td></tr>
<tr><td>Marcin Mamon</td><td>25 August 2013</td><td colspan="3">Arrested in Alexandria for breaking curfew. Released after twenty hours of detention.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Russ Finn</td><td>Producer</td><td>Aljazeera</td><td>27 August 2013</td><td>Arrested under crackdown against Aljazeera journalists. Detained for five days, released and deported.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Wayne Hay</td><td>Correspondent</td><td>Aljazeera</td><td>27 August 2013</td><td>Arrested under crackdown against Aljazeera journalists. Detained for five days, released and deported.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Adil Bradlow</td><td>Photographer</td><td>Aljazeera</td><td>27 August 2013</td><td>Arrested under crackdown against Aljazeera journalists. Detained for five days, released and deported.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Adam Ramsy</td><td>06 October 2013</td><td colspan="3">Assaulted while reporting Dokki riots and photographing Central Security forces firing shots towards protesters. Detained for seven hours, beaten, had his camera, bag, recorder and mobile phone confiscated. Failed to restore any.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Campbell Macdiarmid</td><td>Reporter</td><td>Business Today (Egypt)</td><td>06 October 2013</td><td>Chased and physically assaulted by group of citizens carrying sticks while reporting on clashes between security forces and Muslim Brothers protesters in Dokki, then arrested by Police.</td></tr>
</table>

Annabell Van Den Berghe	Correspondent	VRT Television (Belgium)	29 October 2013	Arrested and interrogated many times by police while filming a documentary.
Bert Edward	Photographer	VRT Television (Belgium)	29 October 2013	Arrested and interrogated many times by police while filming a documentary.
Leslie Verbeeck	Photographer	VRT Television (Belgium)	29 October 2013	Arrested and interrogated many times by police while filming a documentary.
Aaron T. Rose	Correspondent	Daily News Egypt	25 November 2013	After finishing his report on a pro-Morsi student March, he was abducted in a car by two men and taken to Nasr City police station where he has been interrogated.
Mohamed Adel Fahmy	Correspondent	Aljazeera	29 December 2013	Arrested, along with other Aljazeera journalists, in Marriott Hotel room. He was indicted for spreading false news defaming Egypt. Currently in custody, serving his sentence.
Peter Greste	Correspondent	Aljazeera	29 December 2013	Arrested, along with other Aljazeera journalists, in Marriott Hotel room. He was indicted for spreading false news defaming Egypt. Currently in custody, serving his sentence.

<table>
<tr><td>Martin Kroger</td><td>Correspondent</td><td>ARD (Germany)</td><td>24 January 2014</td><td>TV crew was verbally and physically assaulted by the crowd while reporting on the bombing of Cairo Security Directorate. The camera tripod was stolen, and the microphone was damaged. Both photographer and correspondent were injured.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Yong Mi Kin</td><td>26 March 2014</td><td colspan="3">Arrested in Tahrir Square and taken to Qasr El-Nil Police Station, despite having a work permit. Released in the same day.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tinne Van Loon</td><td>02 September 2014</td><td colspan="3">Arrested by security while making footage by her cellular phone in the Cairo Subway. Her cellular was searched and all footages have been deleted.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Connor Shiels</td><td>Correspondent</td><td>Cairo Scene Website</td><td>22 October 2014</td><td>Arrested while reporting on student riot in front of Cairo University main gate. Detained and interrogated by National Security authorities and released after few hours.</td></tr>
</table>